

East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region

REGIONAL LIVELIHOODS WORKING GROUP

Organizers	Anna Gaunt (UNHCR) and Stephanie Loose (UN-Habitat)	
Meeting Location	Virtual (WebEx)	Date and time 01 October 2020 09:00 – 10:30
Next Meeting	05 November 2020	

Agenda

1. Introductions (UNHCR and UN-Habitat)
2. Presentations by UN-Habitat, REACH and UNHCR
3. General – upcoming themes, AOB, Wrap-up

Attendance

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Meeting minutes:

Introductions (Anna Gaunt, UNHCR and Stephanie Loose, UN-Habitat)

UNHCR and UN-Habitat co-moderated a session which specifically focused on challenges and opportunities for refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants and displaced persons in urban areas. Globally, more than 60 percent of refugees and 80 percent of internally displaced people reside in urban areas, even though numbers in the East African region vary, due to a lesser level of urbanization in the region in general.

The session started with an introduction by the co-host, Anna Gaunt from UNHCR, presenting the official UNHCR numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas in the region. She provided an overview of the agenda: which would include presentations from UN-Habitat, REACH and UNHCR that would discuss on various initiative being undertaken in the Urban space.

Overview of presentations

The session brought together different approaches for fostering economic inclusion of migrants, refugees and displaced persons in urban areas, highlighting that urban displacement needs tailored, multi-sectoral approaches that include local actors and respond to specific local contexts as well as creating enabling environments for refugees and displaced to become self-reliant and live dignified lives. The presentations have been uploaded to the [Regional Livelihoods Working Group Portal](#).

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[UN-Habitat – Urban Areas as Social Space - Inclusive cities The City we need!](#) UN-Habitat presented on its mandate and general approaches for supporting people in vulnerable situations in urban areas. Being the UN agency aiming to advance sustainable urbanization as a driver of development and peace to improve living conditions for all, UN-Habitat underlined its area-based, multi-stakeholder and multi-level governance approaches, and highlighted inclusive participatory processes as one means for enabling the social and economic inclusion of refugees into urban societies and its aim to improve urban systems, that benefit both host and refugee/displaced communities.

[UN-Habitat/Somalia – Case Study Mogadishu: Urban planning for fostering the social and economic inclusion of IDPs and refugees](#) UN-Habitat's Somalia team presented how various approaches are translated in urban displacement contexts, starting with a multi-sectoral, spatial data analysis of the urban areas ("urban profiling") to inclusion of local actors, including government authorities, civil society and private sectors and beneficiaries in participatory planning processes for agreeing on priorities for actions. Spatial planning led to better access to basic and urban services and helped to improve urban environments. Lack of adequate housing was identified which then led to the development of large housing project, which, due to its rental schemes, will also lead to increased, long-term increase in local revenue which can be used for further investments in the areas. A brief mention to the recently launched "*Settlement profiling tool*", a joint tool developed by UN-Habitat and UNHCR was given. This tool will be presented in greater detail in the December Forum. It was noted that reducing vulnerabilities of migrants, displaced and refugees residing in urban areas needs cross-sectoral coordination. Specifically in urban contexts, there needs to apply an urban-system and integrated approach, to make sure that interventions benefit people in vulnerable situations communities from both host and refugee communities.

[REACH – Needs Assessment: A Case study of Kampala](#). REACH Initiative presented on an urban assessment of Kampala, conducted by AGORA. AGORA is an initiative that promotes efficient, inclusive and integrated local planning, aid response and service delivery in areas affected by crisis. It advocates for multi-sector recovery needs and localizes response planning and aid delivery beyond sector specific approaches and stands up for technical support for local actors that lead to tangible results and foster collaboration between exogenous aid actors, local stakeholders and public authorities. The Kampala Urban Assessment (2018) showcased the relationships between needs, area of residence and displacement status – highlighting the interdependence of those factors and underlining that in many cases, not the legal status, but gender had more impact on vulnerability.

[UNHCR – MADE51 and BAWA Hope – global handicrafts value chain and work with refugees in the urban space](#). UNHCR presented on two initiatives for fostering market access for products produced by refugees, *MADE51* and *Bawa Hope*. *MADE51* is an innovative, market-based model that promotes economic inclusion of refugees in global value chains. In the *MADE51* model, UNHCR identifies refugees with artisanal skills, helps refugees create strong artisan groups and connects these groups to experienced local social enterprise partners. *MADE51* is also a tangible way to demonstrate solidarity with refugees while helping refugees earn valuable income while *Bawa Hope* is a Fair-Trade company that works with marginalized handicraft artisans in Kenya to create and develop contemporary ethnic jewellery products that satisfy the consumer's desire for Value, Quality and Fashion, whilst taking care of our environment and creating opportunities for marginalized communities. *Bawa Hope* produces over 20,000 units of jewellery for the export market in USA, Germany, Austria, Netherlands, and Sweden. These products are produced by artisans living in the informal settlements in Nairobi. Over 50 artisans in different workshops, directly benefit from these orders. The markets have been acquired through participation in international Trade Fairs namely, Maison & Object in Paris, and Ambiente Messe Frankfurt which attracts over 100,000 visitors.

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Useful links: UN-Habitat/UNHCR [Settlement Profiling Tool: A Spatial Analysis Framework for Settlements Accommodating Displaced Populations](#). The Settlement Profiling Tool incorporates questions that touch on livelihoods mapping, and through using a settlements approach, the interlinkages between livelihoods and other sectors can be captured in research and data collection, providing recommendations.

Examples of urban profiling studies include: The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in Iraq published a [comprehensive urban analysis on Mosul](#), Iraq's second largest city; UNICEF's the [profiling work in Lebanon](#); REACH / AGORA [report for Kampala](#);

The [Global Land Tool Network \(GLTN\)](#) is an alliance of international partners contributing to poverty alleviation through increased access to land and tenure. UN-Habitat has carried out various land tenure analysis in the region specifically focusing at displaced populations using the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN): In [Uganda](#), in partnership with the Government of Uganda and other partners, UN-Habitat and the GLTN implemented a project to improve land tenure security for rural households - particularly women, youth and vulnerable groups in Adjumani. Other reports include [Land and Conflict: Lessons from The Field on Conflict Sensitive Land Governance and Peacebuilding](#); [Darfur Land Administration Assessment - Analysis And Recommendations Report](#); [Sudan – Darfur States Land](#) project aimed to research the specific areas of land tenure, property rights and customary land registration issues. The purpose of the project was to improve current land title system and to contribute in the development of evidence-based land policies, laws and regulations. Various other tools and reports are available on the [GLTN website](#).

AOB Members were requested to share proposed themes for upcoming meetings, as well as present key findings, lessons learnt, tools to the group by contacting [Anna](#) (UNHCR) and [Sarah](#) (NRC). Upcoming topics of interest include Agriculture and Rural interventions, Private Sector Cooperation and Financial inclusion.

Members were encouraged to volunteer in moderating upcoming meetings; as well as share research, publications, highlights, webinars, meetings, etc that they would like uploaded to the [Economic Inclusion Exchange East Africa Portal](#).

Schedule of meetings Subsequent meetings to reoccur every first Thursday in the month effective October 01, 2020. The next meeting is scheduled for November 05, 2020.
